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Celebrity Pg 23



Simpson, Romo to walk down aisle?

RCMP looking into alleged racial slurs

RACE Digby RCMP are investigating yet another racially-motivated disturbance stemming from an incident that occurred at a local restaurant last Saturday night.

CTV reported that two white youth are alleged to have said they did not want a young black man, who was working behind the restaurant counter, touching their food.

RCMP spokesman Mark Gallagher says police are still trying to figure out exactly what happened. "It was brought to our attention the day after," he said.

METRO HALIFAX

Local pg 6

Group says \$4 welfare hike not enough

Movies pg 18



Drunk friend steals Nick and Norah

Sports pg 12

Football bloodlines run deep for Jones

ShareYourViews

halifaxletters@metronews.ca



Nova Scotia Auditor General Jacques Lapointe listens to a reporter's question at a press conference about the province's immigrant nominee program on Wednesday.

RCMP to investigate immigration program

DEVIN STEVENS
for Metro Halifax



The RCMP have been called in, the Auditor General says it's a failure, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in immigrants' money has either gone missing or been wasted.

But Nova Scotia's Immigration Minister says the Nominee Program is a success, and won't apologize.

"Right now, you probably couldn't convince me it's a failure," Len Goucher said, adding 400 families now call Nova Scotia home because of the initiative.

Under the program, immigrants paid \$130,000 for a fast-track into Canada, and a six-month middle management mentorship with a Nova Scotia company.

But Auditor General, Jacques Lapointe says the program was fraught with mentorships that never happened.

Some agents allegedly charged enormous fees they weren't entitled to, and lawyers, agents, and companies were allegedly paid thousands for work that never happened.

The company originally in charge of the program,

"There were inappropriate payments and other irregularities."

Jacques Lapointe

Cornwallis Financial Corp., has refused to cooperate with the investigation. The company and the province are suing each other.

"This is a program that was poorly designed from the outset," Lapointe said. "There is no doubt that there were inappropriate payments and other irregularities."

Lapointe's findings have

been turned over to the RCMP. Among other cases, they'll investigate a Halifax lawyer who charged more than \$116,000 for agent work he allegedly never did, and Cornwallis Financial for allegedly selling a mentorship to a company in exchange for a franchise.

Goucher said the government never brought the RCMP in because it never had enough information.

Later in the day, in a sharp turn from his minister's remarks, Premier Rodney MacDonald apologized for the program, calling it deficient.

MORE COVERAGE, P. 2

A few of the Nova Scotia Nominee Program's notable gaffes

- Nova Scotia Auditor General Jacques Lapointe has denounced the province's Nominee Program as "poorly designed", saying that some businesses have not provided the six-month positions afforded to immigrants through the program, and that inappropriate fees have been levied by some agents and companies. Here are a few of the problems documented as a result of the program:

- One participating company was based in Moncton, N.B. It had an immigrant working in its virtual office — comprising of a mailbox and a messaging service — based in Halifax.

- Two companies were owned by the same person. The second application was made in his wife's name.

- Fifty of the 51 nominees the auditor general looked at should not have been approved. A program requirement was proficiency in English, but 10 of the nominees couldn't speak the language. Four didn't have the proper experience, three didn't meet the minimum net worth, and three more had too much money.

- Twenty-four of the 41 approved companies didn't meet the program's own requirements.

- Nominees paid an average of \$9,000 in agent fees for which they weren't responsible. Some paid \$30,000 more.

- More than 800 immigrants paid \$130,000 to join the program. About 400 are still in Nova Scotia.

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One in 10 people has a learning disability of some kind, which means 75,000 to 80,000 Nova Scotians, according to the Learning Disabilities Association of Nova Scotia. It's having its annual conference today at the World Trade and Convention Centre. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local



Local chef wins PEI challenge

Lobster, anyone? NSCC Chef Instructor Peter Dewar won the International PEI Shellfish Chef's Challenge for the second year. Get ready to drool: Dewar's lobster tarragon roll with fried clams, buttered pouched potatoes and sautéed chanterelles won the prize.

METRO HALIFAX

www.peterkelly.ca



Immigrant plan flawed: Parties

DEVIN STEVENS
for Metro Halifax

Government opposition parties were quick to pounce after the Auditor General presented his report into the Nominee Program yesterday.

"There was a feeding frenzy," the NDP's Graham Steele said after Jacques Lapointe presented his report to the Public Accounts Committee.

"A lot of people smelled money in the water and it was immigrants' money so I guess they thought it didn't matter. A lot of people lined their pockets."

Steele said seven different ministers have been in charge of the program but not one has taken responsibility.

He said the government owes immigrants an apology and the public accounts committee should call them to answer.

Liberal MLA Diana Whalen said the program was flawed from the beginning, with a lack of oversight and management.

"We should remember there have been a series of ministers, including the first one, who's now our Premier, Rodney MacDonald, who were in charge of this file," Whalen said.

The committee passed non-binding resolution saying the government should pay back all the immigrants living in Nova Scotia who participated. The NDP and Liberals were in favour, while the Tories voted against it.

Programs 'vulnerable': Former official

All provincial nominee programs are at risk to the kind of problems Nova Scotia has had, says James Bissett, a former head of the Canadian Immigration Service.

"The whole provincial nomination system, not just in Nova Scotia, has to be examined pretty carefully," Bissett said yesterday from his Ottawa home.

"It's vulnerable to scams." Bissett was head of the Canadian Immigration Service from 1985 to 1990, when Quebec — the first province to start a nominee program — was just drawing up the paperwork.

He said the program is useful

because it allows provinces, which know their own requirements, to admit the kinds of immigrants they need.

"The problem is that a lot of the provinces don't have the expertise to go out and select these workers and interview them. It's handed off to agents."

Those agents may tend to recruit unskilled labourers, because companies want to pay them less for unskilled work than they'd pay Canadian citizens, Bissett said.

"Inevitably, they will be laid off at some point, and they won't be able to compete with the Canadian workforce."

RACHEL BOOMER/METRO HALIFAX

HMCS St. John's Mom's homecoming



Three-year-old Ethan Spearman, left, and his brother Ivan, 5, react as they see their mom, Combat Systems Engineer Jennifer Spearman, for the first time since July 29, as the HMCS St. John's returned to Halifax yesterday. The St. John's was involved in Operation Horatio, a relief effort in Haiti that delivered more than 450 metric tons of rice, corn-soya meal, bottled water, water purification tablets and other relief supplies over a 13-day period. The ship's Sea King helicopter, from 12 Wing Shearwater, delivered more than 300 cargo loads.

Navy gets things shipshape for United Way

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax

Metro Turning Point called in the navy yesterday to give its shelter a good fall cleaning as part of the United Way's Day of Caring.

About 30 DND volunteers descended on the Barrington Street shelter for homeless people to scrub it from top to bottom, inside and out. The crew also did some painting and light repairs, and rearranged the 65-person dorm to give the men more personal space at night. "We don't get to do a deep clean very often," said E.J. Davis, associate house director of MTP. "It was definitely needed." Sylvan Castonguay was been staying at the shelter for a week. "It's a good place," the Montreal native said. "We need more



Cpl. Bradley Couchman scrubs the baseboards at Metro Turning Point yesterday as part of a United Way event where 280 volunteers did construction work and cleaning at non-profit offices around the city.

places like this." He added he was looking forward to the extra bed space. "We'll see (what it's like) when we get in tonight."

Second-lieutenant Stephanie Melanson head-

ed the DND effort. She said the navy crew was looking forward to helping out and getting a chance to chat with the residents.

"This is (just) the people we could spare," she said of the DND volunteers at MTP

and other projects across the city. "We had so many more who couldn't come."

The United Way event stretched across HRM. In addition to DND, it drew volunteers ranging from bookkeepers to HRM staff.

Carole MacDougall of the United Way said the day was a huge success. The favourable weather drew a bigger volunteer pool than they had counted on, she explained.

MacDougall said the 280 volunteers were spread to projects across the city.

"Some of (the organizations helped) have the need for steps to be repaired, or railings to be installed, that kind of stuff," she said. "There are DND experts (on site), because so many of them are skilled tradespeople."

Building supplies retailer Kent donated \$10,000 worth of supplies to the day.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Watch election reports on Quebecers who have set up a site featuring anti-Harper testimonials and on Tony Clement's hopes of improving on his 2006 28-vote win at www.metronews.ca/canada
Search for jobs using Metro's Workopolis search
Play online Sudoku!

News in brief

CORRECTION Regional Council came up with the plan to delay making a decision on Armour Group's Waterside Centre so it could meet with the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia. Incorrect information appeared in yesterday's edition of Metro Halifax.

METRO HALIFAX

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49 2, 8, 22, 29, 34 & 48. Bonus 47
These results are not official.

New position for humanitarian award winner

Sunyata Choyce, Nova Scotia's first Red Cross Young Humanitarian award winner, has been made a manager of the Bethesda Medical Services and Relief. **METRO HALIFAX**

local **3**

Rogers employees Steve Mullane, John Phillips, Shawna McIntosh and Maggie Stewart carry boxes of food to the Feed Nova Scotia warehouse yesterday. Feed Nova Scotia, in serious need of donations, is appealing to the public for help. Rogers will take donations at all of its locations around Nova Scotia during October. Donors will be entered in a contest to win a BlackBerry Bold.

Food bank faces major shortage

Feed Nova Scotia urges donations

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax

Feed Nova Scotia is down to a week's supply of food. Its warehouse is two-thirds empty and it's appealing to Nova Scotians for help.

President Dianne Swinemar said her organization needs protein-rich foods like canned meat and fish or peanut butter. Canned beans, vegetables and soup are also in short supply, along with healthy cereals.

"The economy has changed. People are being very thoughtful about their personal donations," she said.

Corporations have cut back on donations as higher transportation costs

"We have very worried citizens out there who are wondering, are they going to be the next generation having to use the food bank?"

Dianne Swinemar

pinch their bank accounts. Those costs have hit Feed NS, too.

"We have people who are experiencing economic crisis and they need our help," Swinemar said. "We have very worried citizens out there who are wondering, are they going to be the next generation having to use the food bank?"

"If you can appreciate how much the cost of living has gone up and what it's done to you, then you can appreciate how ... awful this would be for them."

Feed NS helps 40,000 No-

va Scotians a month, distributing to food banks from Yarmouth to Cape Breton. About half the donations go to people in HRM.

Mike Boudreau, vice-president of Rogers Atlantic, said Rogers will take donations at all of its Nova Scotian outlets during October. Donors will be entered in a contest to win a BlackBerry Bold.

"We didn't realize until talking to Dianne just how desperate it is," he said.

"If we can do anything to assist, that's what we're trying to do."

Gas prices defended

The minister responsible for gas regulation defended why Nova Scotians are paying more at the pump than the actual market price yesterday.

"In a volatile market you have to allow for ups and downs and regulation smoothes that out," said Service Nova Scotia Minister Jamie Muir. "Our margins over a two-year period indicate that we are just about dead on what the model is intended to do."

He also explained why he's not about to invoke the interrupter clause, as he's recently done when

the market went "totally out of whack."

"There has not been a movement that indicates we should change the prices ahead of the regular schedule," he said.

According to Gasbud-dy.com, the price per litre of gas in Nova Scotia was 122.5 yesterday. Nova Scotians will see a change at the pumps Friday morning.

While Muir says a past study shows gas regulation is in the best interests of Nova Scotians, a second study is also underway and expected by the end of the month.

METRO HALIFAX

Man accused of attempted murder

CRIME Halifax Regional Police have charged Jahmal Leslie Thomas, 27, with attempted murder and weapons charges after shots were fired over the weekend. Police say a group of young women were sitting on the steps of a Bras Dor Lane home Sunday at 1 a.m. when two men pulled up in a car, and one fired gunshots at the women. They believe a 21-year-old woman was the intended target. No one was hurt.

RACHEL BOOMER/
METRO HALIFAX

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The Dingle Park tower is 100 years old today. The tower, formally known as the Memorial Tower, was built to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Nova Scotia's First Assembly meeting on Oct. 2, 1758. **METRO HALIFAX**

Stroke could be major health care issue in a decade

RACHEL BOOMER
rachel.boomer@metronews.ca

If Nova Scotians don't change our lifestyles soon, the province will have a major stroke problem on its hands in just over a decade, says Dr. Gord Gubitz, a neurologist who treats stroke patients.

Gubitz said Nova Scotians have among the highest rates of high blood pressure, diabetes, smoking and obesity — all risk factors for stroke and other cardiovascular diseases.

Add that to Nova Scotia's aging population — 42 per cent of our population is expected to be over 55 by 2031 — and Gubitz will never be out of work.

"It's going to be a big problem," Gubitz told Metro News yesterday.

"We're now seeing the edge of the baby boomer population. You can predict it as the baby boomers get older."

Capital Health just got a \$300,000 provincial government grant this week, which it's using to organize stroke patients' care — things like where occupational therapists are most needed and who could be best treated at home. Gubitz said that will help for the influx of patients it expects as the baby boomers reach their late 60s to early 70s, which is the age of most Capital Health stroke patients.

"Most people treat their cars better than they treat their bodies."

Dr. Gord Gubitz

But Gubitz has high hopes Nova Scotians could switch their lifestyles in time to prevent the onslaught of stroke patients on his ward in a decade or more.

The biggest factor? Check your blood pressure. If it's too high, deal with it and that will reduce your risk of stroke.

Oh, and it wouldn't hurt to go for a walk, Gubitz said.

"Most people treat their cars better than they treat their bodies."

Road work ahead for Victoria Road

CONSTRUCTION The Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission begins work today on the complete restoration of the Victoria Road interchange, a project which is expected to take 12 weeks. The work in-

cludes repairing the road structure and replacing the asphalt and guardrails. Drivers will experience detours, temporary driving surfaces and some delays during the duration of the work. **METRO HALIFAX**

Blue commentary wows

Show delights 6,000 fans at Halifax Metro Centre last night

PHILIP CROUCHER
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It was part music. Part comedy. Part technological wizardry.

It was even part social commentary.

But most importantly for the roughly 6,000 fans last night at the Halifax Metro Centre, Blue Man Group was an experience that won't soon be forgotten.

From the moment the three members of Blue Man Group took the stage to when they walked off about 90 minutes later, fans were treated to an amazing spectacle.

Sporting black clothing and blue

painted skin, the Blue Man trio showcased an unbelievable variety of talents and did so without speaking a single word.

They used drum sticks to play everything from what looked like giant garbage cans, to long, white pipes and the inner-

workings of a piano.

They also used curious facial expressions and exaggerated body movements to lure the audience into their every move, all of which usually led to stints of lengthy laughter and the occasional volunteer being brought onto the stage.

This amazing spectacle took place on a stage which sported an eight-person back-up band. The band rocked the house with pounding drums, stellar guitar playing and contemporary vocals from songs mixed with videos designed to make an audience member stop and think about the fast pace of society.

Then there was the technological show.

When

Blue Man Group pounded drums, fluorescent paint sometimes flew into the air. When the lights went out you never knew what to expect, whether all three members were going to be dressed in neon lights or had magically changed their heads into television monitors.

Finally, after returning for a well-deserved encore, the group added some Halifax flavour to its show as Mike Smith, aka "Bubbles," came onto the stage in full character from the Trailer Park Boys and introduced the members of the band. He also thanked the audience for coming out on behalf of Blue Man Group.

This led to the final song of the night, which got the crowd to its feet and people of all ages dancing in the aisles. After several shots of confetti flew into the crowd an unbelievable entertainment experience was complete.



A performer with the Blue Man Group drums at the beginning of the group's How to be a Megastar Tour 2.1 show at the Metro Centre last night. Artist David Garibaldi opened the night with his brand of high-energy performance painting.

Be cautious but don't panic: Baker

ECONOMY Nova Scotia's finance minister says people should feel cautious about the unstable stock market, not like we're doomed.

"We've had some issues in Atlantic Canada — more than most of the country actually — historically in getting credit for business," Finance Minister Michael Baker said. "The tightening of the credit markets significantly certainly has the potential to be damaging."

Those with pension plans and investments need to be watchful, he added. And our export in-

"This is going to affect us. I'm not suggesting it's not, but ... the degree to which it's going to affect us can be very different than it is in the United States."

Finance Minister Michael Baker

dustries are definitely going to suffer due to "horrendous" housing markets in some U.S. states.

But he says all this shouldn't be a source of panic for people.

"This is going to affect us," Baker said. "I'm not suggesting it's not, but ... the degree to which it's going to affect us can be

very, very different than it is in the United States.

"... People should understand they're also in a different economy than the U.S. And in the past that's often been a negative actually for us. This may be one of those times when it really does work to the advantage of Canadians."

LINDSAY JONES/METRO HALIFAX

Province and Mi'kmaq agree to governance treaty

FIRST NATIONS The Nova Scotia government agreed to meeting annually with Mi'kmaq chiefs with the signing of a proclamation during a Treaty Day ceremony at Province House yesterday.

Cabinet agreed to the pledge during a first time meeting with the province's 13 chiefs last week.

Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy signed the Mi'kmaq Nationhood Proclamation.

Chief Terrance Paul, co-chair of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, said it represents a commitment to develop a system of governance that empowers his people and unites communities.

LINDSAY JONES/
METRO HALIFAX

Record-breaking tourist total expected today

PORT Today should be a record-breaking day for the Port of Halifax, as four large cruise ships are expected to dock bringing an estimated 9,700 passen-

gers to the city, the most ever for one day.

The largest ship coming is The Explorer Of The Seas, which carries an estimated 3,100 people.

The total economic impact of cruise passengers and crew members visiting Halifax is expected to be about \$25 million this season. **METRO HALIFAX**

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Wine from around the world

Wine fans, clear your palates: the annual NSLC Port of Wines festival begins today and runs until Saturday, Oct. 4. There'll be more than 330 wines from 13 countries, and will feature Argentinian vino. Tickets are \$40 or \$60; for info, visit www.thenslc.com. **METRO HALIFAX**

Thieves ransack Liberal candidate's house

Federal Liberal candidate Tracy Parsons returned from a conference in Halifax this week to find her house robbed and ransacked.

"I came home, went in the back door and saw the kitchen door was open and it's always closed.

"I peeked around the corner and saw the chaos,"

said Parsons, the Liberal candidate for Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley.

She did not go any further into the house, but called in the crime to the Bible Hill RCMP.

"I'm shocked and horrified. I feel violated ... we are not rich people, what would we have that they'd

"I can't imagine it being politically motivated. I think it's a coincidence."

Tracy Parsons

want?"

Parsons was still waiting last night to see the full damage. RCMP did not let

anyone inside the house while an investigation was underway.

But from what Parsons was able to see from her initial peek around the corner, DVDs were scattered on the kitchen floor, as was a coat and papers from her bedroom.

Looking through her window, she believed at

least three laptops could have been stolen as well.

"It's bizarre ... it was in broad daylight," said the Riverside Avenue, Bible Hill resident.

"I can't imagine it being politically motivated. I think it's a coincidence."

Police continue to investigate the matter.

THE TRURO DAILY NEWS

News in brief

EDUCATION Saint Mary's University elected new faces to lead its board of governors. SMU announced yesterday that Michele Wood-Tweel, a 1983 graduate and executive director of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia, was elected chair. John S. Fitzpatrick, a 1981 grad and partner at Boyne Clarke law firm, was elected vice-chair.

METRO HALIFAX

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Federal Justice Department lawyer Theodore Tax was named a provincial court and family court judge yesterday. **METRO HALIFAX**

La Cache
by

April Cornell

The Spring Garden Road location is continuing its liquidation sale.

All ladies' and girls' clothing is now **50% off** including new arrivals.

Everything is on sale from **30% to 70% off.**



Laurel Miller of HCAP speaks on Gottingen Street yesterday.

Welfare raise blasted

Increase of \$4 a month a 'slap in the face'

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax



Poverty activists yesterday dismissed a new welfare raise of \$4 a month as a "slap in the face" to the poor in Nova Scotia.

The Halifax Coalition Against Poverty said the real value of a welfare cheque in the province has decreased by up to 20 per cent over the last 20 years.

"They are bumping up the smaller personal allowance by a measly 1.96 per cent but ignoring the shelter and special-needs allowance," said HCAP's Laurel Miller, who has received welfare assistance herself.

"After factoring in infla-

"(The money is) enough for an extra couple of loaves of bread a month. That's ten sandwiches, if you can afford the peanut butter."

Laurel Miller

tion, this effectively amounts to a reduction in social assistance allowances."

The money would not go far, she added. "(It's) enough for an extra couple of loaves of bread a month. That's ten sandwiches, if you can afford the peanut butter."

HCAP's Jill Ratcliffe said a 30 per cent rise is needed just to bring assistance back to where it was in the 1980s.

"For a single individual, the rates are \$6,000 a year," she said. Moving it to \$8,000 and linking rates to inflation would be a start, she said.

But Community Services Minister Judy Streatch said the cost-of-living allowance has gone up 15.6 per cent over the last five years. It costs the province \$1.4 million a year.

"Is it enough? Can it ever be enough?" she asked. "Certainly, when you look at the entire program, it's much more beneficial than simply the \$4."

WITH FILES FROM LINDSAY JONES

Federal candidates face off in debate

There didn't appear to be any haymakers or knockouts, but there were plenty of jabs and counter-punches as the four federal candidates in the Sydney-Victoria riding squared off in a debate at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre.

Questions from the audience of more than 300 covered such topics as fair distribution of equalization payments for municipalities, social assistance, youth crime, food safety and views on the Donkin mine proposal during the CBC-organized debate.

Green party candidate Collin Harker said his par-

"It's time to stop the gouging and it's time to start helping the seniors in this community."

Wayne McKay

ty supports the development of the Donkin mine. But he added that the Greens' emphasis on support for other forms of energy and adding jobs in clean-coal technology, wind power and coal-bed methane can strengthen Cape Breton's economy.

New Democratic Party candidate Wayne McKay

Election 2008

said oil companies are gouging people, and that those in the low-income bracket are being hurt the most by this.

He added that the NDP would not cut taxes for large corporations. Instead, McKay said, it would leave corporate taxes in place and support small businesses, low-income earners and seniors.

"It's time to stop the gouging and it's time to start helping the seniors in this community," he said.

THE CAPE BRETON POST

News in brief

VANDALISM Three teens have been arrested and two are now charged with vandalizing a Bridgewater cemetery.

Bridgewater police expect to charge the third teen after further investigation. On Sunday afternoon, several headstones

were overturned at Brookside Cemetery, causing damage worth about \$20,000.

METRO HALIFAX

34 arrested in Calgary bust

Calgary police have levied over 250 criminal charges against 34 people after an 11-month investigation into a violent organized crime group in the city. Police executed 25 search warrants, resulting in more than \$200,000 worth of drugs, \$40,000 in cash and 12 guns. **METRO CANADA**

7

Canada



Judge urges probe into deaths

The Ontario commissioner who probed mistakes in 20 child-death investigations is concerned that wrongful convictions may have occurred in other cases and is urging the province to take a second look at myriad child deaths dating back 20 years. Justice Stephen Goudge, left, yesterday noted that medical opinion has changed in the areas of shaken baby syndrome and pediatric head injuries.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Couillard's tell-all book latest trouble for Tories

BERNIER Prime Minister Stephen Harper, already on the defensive amid charges of plagiarism, faced the prospect of fresh embarrassment yesterday over a new book that paints an unflattering portrait of former foreign minister Maxime Bernier.

In the book, Julie Couillard, Bernier's ex-girlfriend, says the minister was not concerned over the possible Quebec

secession and was opposed to sending Canadian troops to Afghanistan.

resigned

Bernier resigned in May after admitting he had left secret documents in Couillard's apartment.

The book will hit shelves in Quebec next Monday and is likely to draw voter attention.

Bernier issued a statement to Montreal's La Presse dismissing the allegations in the book as "completely ridiculous."

No one in Harper's office was available for comment.

REUTERS

VANOC lawsuit grows

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada



The list of female ski jumpers suing VANOC for barring them from competing in the 2010 Games became a little longer yesterday when the first active Canadian jumper added her name to the suit.

Zoya Lynch, 17, and nine jumpers from the United States, Europe and one retired Canadian, allege VANOC is violating Canada's Charter of Rights by not letting their sport, for which there is a men's component, into the Olympics.

VANOC has maintained



Ski jumper Zoya Lynch, 17, with her lawyer Ross Clark outside the B.C. Court of Appeals in Vancouver yesterday.

that the suit is aimed at the wrong target and that it's up to the International Olympic Committee to make this decision.

Lynch, who has been jumping since she was eight, said she's lost faith in VANOC and the Canadian government.

"It's hard to focus on school and being an elite athlete as well as trying to get my sport into the Olympics," she said.

"I don't want to stand on the sidelines watching the boys. I put every single second of my life into this."

Lynch's mother, Sarah, said she raised her daughter to believe that her gender would never stand in the way of her dreams and goals.

"Women have been brought up to believe they can do anything they like," she said. "We want these Olympics to be the best Olympics ever, and to be the first gender-equal Olympics in history."

News in brief

OTTAWA Police yesterday said they are seeking suspects after a trio of sexual assaults, including one Monday in which a man tried to abduct a woman.

LABRADOR The economic crisis could lead to a six-month delay for the Lower Churchill power project, CBC News Online reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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If you had uninsurable losses to your home or owner-operated small business, you may be eligible to submit a claim under Nova Scotia's disaster financial assistance policy.

Applications and guides are available from your local Access Nova Scotia or Registry of Motor Vehicles office, or online at www.gov.ns.ca/emo

Applications must be submitted by Friday, November 28, 2008.

For more information, call 1-800-670-4357,
Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Election 2008



Angst at the ballot box

Poll shows Canadians leery of handing Conservatives a majority

On the Hustings

Andrew Cohen

Election insight and analysis

Among the blizzard of polls appearing every day of this campaign, the most intriguing may be this one: 52 per cent of Canadians worry about giving the Conservatives a majority.

They appear to be concerned about handing the government carte blanche, four or five years of unfettered, unchecked government.

In other words, the Conservatives are unbound. Stephen Harper unplugged. Any leader's fantasy.

If this kind of anxiety ex-

ists in Canada, it's because 52 per cent of Canadians think the Conservatives would surprise or anger them with what they would do with a majority. That might mean cutting funding to the CBC or revisiting the legalization of abortion or the ban on capital punishment, which social conservatives dislike.

But if the second part of this poll is correct, this concern doesn't mean much. Asked whether they would change their vote to stop a Conservative majority, 81 per cent said no.

Apparently, then, the prospect of a Conservative majority doesn't disturb Canadians as much as it did in 2006, when the Conservatives were held to a minority, or in 2004, when they lost. Both times the Liberals argued that the Conservatives had "a secret agenda" and couldn't be



trusted with a majority. Their "fear-mongering" seemed to have worked.

Now, if it is true that half of Canadians "worry" about a majority but four-fifths would do nothing to prevent it — such as strategic voting — the dynamic of this campaign may have decisively shifted.

This may explain why the

Conservatives began the campaign predicting that they would win only a minority, reluctant to raise the prospect of a majority. Worried about driving frightened voters to the Liberals, they sought to lower expectations, hoping that a polarized electorate would deliver their majority on Oct. 14. But they're less shy now.

If Harper is wary of using the "M" word too much, he is unafraid to ask for a stronger "mandate" to free his government from the scrutiny of those left-of-centre parties in Parliament.

He has reason to be confident. While no polls show him winning more than 40 per cent of the vote, the level usually necessary for a majority in Parliament, he remains at least 10 points ahead of the Liberals.

Fundamentally, Canadians may not like Stephen Harper, and they may not trust him with a majority, which is why he can't crack 40 per cent. But in dutifully distributing their votes among a fractured four-party opposition, they may give him his wish anyway.

Andrew Cohen teaches journalism at Carleton University. He is the author of *Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson*.

16 Registered Political Parties: 16

- Animal Alliance Environment Voters Party of Canada
- Bloc Québécois
- Canadian Action Party
- Christian Heritage Party of Canada
- Communist Party of Canada
- Conservative Party of Canada
- First Peoples National Party of Canada
- Green Party of Canada
- Liberal Party of Canada
- Libertarian Party of Canada
- Marijuana Party
- Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada
- neorhino.ca
- New Democratic Party
- Progressive Canadian Party
- Western Block Party

Eligible Political Parties: 3

- Newfoundland and Labrador First Party
- People's Political Power Party of Canada
- Work Less Party

METRO NEWS SERVICES

News in brief

EMPLOYMENT When a general election or referendum is held, approximately 200,000 positions in 308 ridings across the country are filled.

ELECTIONS CANADA



Tony Clement hopes to improve over his 2006 28-vote victory. Watch at metronews.ca/canada

12 days remain until the 2008 Canadian federal election

Watchdog group to file motion against election

The current federal election is illegal because Stephen Harper broke his own fixed election date, a group advocating government accountability will argue in federal court this morning.

Democracy Watch is filing a motion before a fed-

eral judge in Ottawa asking the court to hear its arguments that the election is illegal because the prime minister asked the Governor General to dissolve Parliament and call an election before October 2009, the date the election should have been held as

set down in the Canada Elections Act.

An amendment to the Canada Elections Act stating each general election must be held on the third Monday of October every four years became law in May 2007. And promises of fixed election dates were a

major part of the Conservative's 2006 election platform.

Peter Rosenthal, a lawyer for Democracy Watch, will be submitting comments from key figures in the Conservative government that the intention of the fixed election date law is to

prevent the prime minister from asking the Governor General to dissolve Parliament unless it loses a non-confidence vote.

"The House wasn't even sitting when the prime minister advised her," said Rosenthal.

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Canada

Little interest in watching debates: Survey

Roughly one-third of Canadians have no plans to watch either of the federal election debates this week, an Angus Reid Strategies poll has found. The online survey found 33 per cent will only watch the English debate and 11 per cent plan to watch both. Thirty-five per cent said they wouldn't watch either. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

canada 9

Election 2008

Rivals hammer Harper

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's rivals ganged up on him last night, using the French debate to accuse him of favouring the same economic policies as U.S. President George W. Bush.

Opposition leaders — who regularly accuse Harper of harbouring an extremist agenda and of taking his orders from Bush — blamed the prime minister for Canada's sluggish economic growth and said he should do more to help people who had lost their jobs.

"Mr Harper is a fan of the laissez-faire approach to the economy, like Mr. Bush, and we can see the disaster unfolding now in the United States," said Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe.

Harper says the Canadian economy is doing well considering the problems in the United States.

"The value of Canadian workers' pensions has dropped by \$90 billion in



Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion, centre, makes a point during the French leaders' debate last night in Ottawa as NDP Leader Jack Layton, left, Conservative Leader Stephen Harper, second from left, Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe, right, and Green party Leader Elizabeth May look on.

two days — it's unbelievable. And you say that everything is going well," said NDP Leader Jack Layton.

"The policies that you are suggesting today are the same ones used by George Bush ... Where is

the action plan to protect people?"

Harper said the Canadian economy was still producing a surplus and creating new jobs despite the U.S. crisis.

"We are worried about what's going on in the

United States ... we're in a period of slow growth," he said.

But he added: "In the United States they're losing jobs, they're losing houses, they're losing banks. It's totally different in Canada."

"The U.S. banking system

is the least regulated in the world and it's exactly the same ideology that Mr. Harper is proposing for Canada," Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion said.

Harper, who has proposed no changes to the banking system, says the country's banks are solid and well-capitalized.

"In two and a half years you have so mismanaged the economy that our growth in the first half of this year was the weakest in the Group of Eight (leading industrialized nations)," Dion told Harper.

"The risk to our economy is you. You don't believe the government has a role in the economy."

Harper fired back: "You, Stéphane, are proposing to raise taxes with a new tax on carbon. It's a policy that's going to destroy the economy."

The leaders will meet tonight for the English-language debate at 10:30 p.m.

REUTERS

Numbers**Polls divided on possible majority**

SURVEY The Conservatives could turn their minority into a majority in the Oct. 14 election, according to one poll released yesterday, while other surveys suggest they could fall just short.

A Strategic Council survey for the Globe and Mail put the Conservatives at 39 per cent support, with the Liberals well behind at 24 per cent. The New Democrats were at 19 per cent.

A Harris-Decima/Canadian Press poll had the Conservatives unchanged at 36 per cent, the Liberals down two points at 24 per cent and the New Democrats off one point at 17 per cent.

An Ekos automated telephone poll put the Conservatives at 34 per cent and the Liberals at 25 per cent, down two points from the day before.

REUTERS

Quebecers set up anti-Harper website. Watch at metronews.ca/canada

On October 2nd hear what the other parties didn't want you to.



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World



Adventurer's ID discovered

Hikers in a remote area of California have found clothing and aviation identification cards belonging to millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett, presumed dead after his plane went missing a year ago, police said yesterday. Fossett's family was monitoring developments as authorities in the area rushed to set up a command post to search for wreckage of his plane. REUTERS

\$700B bailout clears U.S. Senate hurdle

Aid package now heads back to House

A \$700 billion US financial industry bailout was approved by the Senate last night and headed back to the U.S. House where leaders, stung by a 'no vote' that rocked markets Monday, were cautiously optimistic it would pass in coming days.

"We are working very hard to see if we can pass a plan that will stabilize our economy," House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said before the Senate overwhelmingly passed the bill.

The Maryland Democrat said he expected the House to take up the bill tomorrow and that he thought some of the changes made

Bush pressing

• President George W. Bush, while expressing confidence in the bill's fate this time around, pressed his case, warning lawmakers the measure was needed "so as to stabilize this (economic) situation, so that it doesn't get worse."

in the Senate would help attract more Republicans.

"We need a 100 Republican votes to pass this. We didn't get them on Monday, hopefully the Republican leadership will be able to get their members to support it this time

around," Hoyer said.

The Senate voted 74-25 for the legislation after adding a \$150 billion package of tax breaks for businesses and alternative energy development. The package also includes alternative minimum tax relief for some 24 million mostly middle class taxpayers.

Senate leaders hope that sweetening the bailout plan with tax breaks and a provision to increase bank deposit insurance to \$250,000 from \$100,000 would help win more Republican support in the House, which rejected the bailout in a stunning 228-205 defeat on Monday. REUTERS

India Gandhi fondly remembered



Children dressed as famed Indian spiritual and political leader Mahatma Gandhi pose on the eve of his 139th birth anniversary yesterday in the northern city of Lucknow. Gandhi's birthday is a national holiday in India and is recognized by the UN as the International Day of Non-Violence.

Study pushes origin of AIDS back to turn of 20th century

HEALTH The deadly AIDS virus first began spreading among humans at the turn of the 20th century in sub-Saharan Africa, just as modern cities were emerging in the region, U.S. researchers said yesterday.

The finding pushes back the origin of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) by several decades, as reported in the journal Nature.

Researchers think the growth of cities — and high-risk behaviour associated with urban life — may have helped the virus to flourish. There is no cure for AIDS, which is most commonly transmitted

Proof is in the...

• Research from chimpanzee droppings suggests the virus first spread from chimps to humans in southeastern Cameroon.

through sexual contact.

Prior estimates put the origin of HIV at 1930. But Michael Worobey of the University of Arizona in Tucson now believes HIV began infecting humans between 1884 and 1924.

The research is based on 48-year-old gene fragments dug from a wax-embedded lymph node from a woman in Kinshasa in the Demo-

cratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire.

The 1960 sample is the second-oldest genetic sequence of HIV-1 group M, the main strain of the virus responsible for the AIDS pandemic. The oldest sequence came from a 1959 blood sample given by a man in Kinshasa, formerly known as Leopoldville.

"Once you have two you can line them up and compare them," Worobey said in a telephone interview.

"Once you do that, you see these two sequences are very different. That means the virus had already been there for a long time even by 1959 or 1960." REUTERS

France denies planning massive EU rescue package

ECONOMICS French Economy Minister Christine Lagarde denied yesterday that France was planning a 300 billion euro (\$424.4 billion US) EU bank rescue package.

Earlier yesterday, a European Union government source said that France was planning to propose an EU rescue package for banks worth 300 billion euros.

Asked about the report, Lagarde said: "There is no such thing. There is nothing of the sort."

ing of the sort."

Speaking later to the BBC, Lagarde again denied any bailout plan, but said she wanted a level playing field among EU countries when it came to accounting rules as well as tighter regulation of hedge funds and credit ratings agencies.

"In terms of a level playing field, we can make progress, there's no question of that," she said. REUTERS

News in brief

CRIME Spanish police have arrested 121 people in the country's biggest child pornography raid, seizing equipment containing millions of images including some of the suspects' own family members, the Interior Ministry said yesterday.

STUDY Computer software designed to look for breast tumours can read mammograms nearly as well as an extra pair of human eyes, according to a study published yesterday that could change the way the X-rays are read. REUTERS

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TOP 20 GUIDE

OCTOBER 8 – ONLY IN

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GE to raise \$15 billion US, with a little help from billionaire Buffett

General Electric Co. plans to raise \$15 billion US through stock sales — including a \$3-billion US preferred stake for Warren Buffett that follows his Goldman Sachs investment last week — to improve liquidity and increase acquisition options. **REUTERS**

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Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUSA, FERMIN.DESOUSA@METRONews.CA

Canada's auto industry sputtering

Canada's sputtering auto industry faces more serious trouble such as layoffs and plant closures as sales in its key U.S. market continue plunging.

Canada exports more than 80 per cent of its vehicle production and 60 per cent of parts output to the U.S., where sales declines are worsening each month.

In September, U.S. auto sales crashed 27 per cent or more than 350,000 vehicles

to 965,160 from the same month last year. Sales south of the border are down almost 13 per cent in the first three quarters of the year.

Sales at Ford, Chrysler, Toyota, Honda and General Motors tumbled 15 to 34 per cent in September.

Furthermore, credit restrictions are an obstacle for consumers buying vehicles, noted one industry analyst.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Water bottle deposit planned

WATER Amid consumer and municipality pressure to reduce litter and promote recycling, Canadian bottled water supplier Canadian Springs says it will voluntarily introduce a refundable, half-litre plastic bottle.

The company will start

collecting a 25 cent deposit on all 500 ml bottles as of Jan. 1. It says the deposit-for-refund system is the best method of reducing waste.

But rival companies say funding the Blue Box recycling program works just fine.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Financial crisis Russian crunch



Alexei Ulyukayev, first deputy head of the Russian central bank, attends a business conference in Moscow yesterday. The global financial crisis will last another 15 months and external debt financing in that period will be difficult, "if not impossible," the first deputy head of the Russian central bank said.

THE DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

NSLC wants wine taster:

The NSLC is accepting proposals for an automated wine-tasting system until Oct. 15. The machine allows customers to use cards to purchase a limited number of samples of wine before they buy the bottle; the system's already in use in Newfoundland and Labrador and Calgary, Alberta liquor stores. A test system would first be installed at Port of Wines on Doyle Street. Provincial government estimates are looking for NSLC profits to increase by about six per cent this year.

Safety suggestions welcome:

The province is seeking input on new regulations that will modernize the rules of conduct for power engineers in Nova Scotia. It's all part of changes to the province's technical safety legislation, which will consolidate the Steam Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act and the Crane Operators and Power Engineers Act, and clarify the terms and details of the legislation. Consultations end Nov. 3.

New Gammon Gold VP:

Gammon Gold Inc. has appointed Peter Drobeck as senior vice-president of exploration & business development. Drobeck will assume the role effective Oct. 15, bringing with him over 28 years of mining industry experience focused on precious / base-metal exploration. He was VP exploration for Electrum USA Ltd., a privately funded international exploration company with programs throughout the world.

More living on tight budgets:

Feel like you have to really stretch your paycheck to make ends meet? You're not alone. Fifty-five per cent of workers say they always or usually live paycheck to paycheck just to make ends meet, a jump from 42 per cent in December 2006, according to a country-wide survey of over 500 workers by CareerBuilder.ca. Thirty-five per cent of workers say they don't put aside any money for savings each month.

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Wireless wannabe shrugs off financing woes

WIRELESS Despite the impact the financial crisis is having on companies' abilities to secure financing, Anthony Lacavera, the CEO of Globalive Communications Corp., says his company's bid to become the country's fourth national wireless player is right on track.

He says Globalive will not be delaying its deployment plan for mid-2009, since its \$700 million US in backing comes from Egypt's Orascom Telecom.

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Abdur-Rahim named Kings' assistant coach

The Sacramento Kings named the recently retired Shareef Abdur-Rahim as an assistant coach yesterday. A 12-year NBA veteran, most currently with the Sacramento Kings, he announced his retirement due to a reoccurring knee injury. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Balsillie not targeting Predators

NHL Media reports that Canadian businessman Jim Balsillie — who has long sought an additional NHL franchise for southern Ontario — is again attempting to buy all or part of the Nashville Predators appear to be premature.



Balsillie

Reports surfaced this week that Balsillie, the co-founder of Waterloo-based Research In Motion Ltd., was close to either purchasing the Predators outright or making a bid for the 27 per cent share of the team which is in the hands of a bankruptcy court. That share was held by William (Boots) Del Baggio, who filed for bankruptcy early this year, and is listed in court documents as being worth about \$25 million.

But sources yesterday indicated that linking Balsillie's name to the Predators in any ownership capacity at this time is misleading.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Expect Ovechkin slump: Cherry

CBC analyst expects Capitals star to have a tough season this year

York Report

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

He was the NHL's top scorer and MVP last season, but don't expect **Alexander Ovechkin** to be as electrifying, efficient or effective this season.

That, at least, is the advice of CBC's **Don Cherry**, who offered his prediction for the Washington Capitals' superstar yesterday while he and other television analysts previewed the coming NHL season in a conference call with media types.

"I'd be surprised if (Ovechkin) does as well as he did last year," Cherry said. "He was doing things he shouldn't do. He was cutting into the middle and ... he was getting away with it.

He won't get away with it this year. (Opponents) will be waiting for him this year.

"I'm not knocking him ... But I was asked if he's going to have a better year and I'm just saying he won't have as good a year."

Ovechkin wasn't Cherry's only target yesterday. He ripped the Vancouver Canucks, too.

"I hate to say it because I think (Vancouver's) **Roberto Luongo** is the best

goalie in the world, but I don't think the Canucks have added any firepower," Cherry said. "They're going to be in a dogfight to make the playoffs."

And Cherry also questioned the Canucks' decision to establish Luongo as their captain.

"If he's a leader, he'll be a leader, but he doesn't have to be the captain," Cherry said. "It shouldn't be a goalie. It's silly as far as I'm

Expansion

• Don Cherry on the NHL's future expansion plans into Europe: "I can't see them drawing (spectators) over there and I can't see them charging the big ticket prices to pay for players' salaries."

concerned."

Mike Milbury of CBC and NBC quickly agreed with Cherry about Luongo's appointment.

Milbury also suggested the Pittsburgh Penguins, Stanley Cup finalists last season, will be heading downhill this season.

"Pittsburgh lost a lot of glue on their roster," he said. "I think they're going to struggle ... The Penguins have some hills to climb ... I'm also not as

sold on (goalie **Marc-Andre Fleury** as they seem to be."

Milbury's strangest comments, however, came after a writer asked the analysts to speak about their mothers' influences in their hockey careers in connection with all the hockey mom talk these days in the United States, where vice-presidential candidate **Sarah Palin** publicly described herself as "a hockey mom."

Analyst **Ed Olczyk** went down memory lane about how his mother would tie his skates and provide him with endless support, but Milbury wasn't sappy at all, saying:

"Don't get me wrong. I loved my mom dearly. She's not with us anymore. But all I ever heard from her was 'You have to hustle more' ... All I got from her, besides genetics, was aggravation."

Bizarre.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Barcelona, Liverpool win in Champions League action

SOCCER Substitute Lionel Messi scored two late goals, including one in stoppage time, to lead 2006 winners Barcelona to a 2-1 victory at Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League yesterday.

Last season's runners-up Chelsea were held to a 0-0 draw at surprise packages CFR Cluj.

Liverpool continued to torment PSV Eindhoven

with a 3-1 triumph over the Dutch. Steven Gerrard scored his 100th goal for Liverpool.



Gerrard

Atletico Madrid, beat Olympique Marseille 2-1. Anorthosis Famagusta got 3-1 home win over Panathinaikos. AS Roma beat Girondins Bordeaux 3-1. Inter Milan and Werder Bremen tied 1-1. Sporting Lisbon beat Basel 2-0.

REUTERS

Hamels dominates in opener

Phillies 3 Brewers 1

MLB Cole Hamels hurled eight shutout innings as Philadelphia downed Milwaukee, 3-1, last night in Game 1 of their National League Division Series at Citizens Bank Park.

Hamels (1-0) used great location and a dominating changeup to keep an undisciplined Brewers lineup off-balance throughout. He allowed just two hits and one walk while striking out nine batters. The left-hander retired the first 14 batters he faced before Corey Hart lined a clean single to right with two

outs in the fifth inning.

"Obviously his power changeup is as good as there is in baseball from any left-hander," Brewers manager Dave Sveum said. "And he had a pretty decent breaking ball, even though he didn't throw it a lot, but it's probably the best breaking ball we've seen in a while from what we've seen in our scouting reports and stuff."

Phillies closer Brad Lidge struggled mightily in the ninth, however, and surrendered a run before allowing the tying runs to reach second and third with two outs.

Dodgers 7 Cubs 2 —

James Loney clubbed a two-out grand slam in the fifth inning and Manny Ramirez homered in the seventh as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Chicago Cubs, 7-2, last night in the opener of their National League Division Series.

Russell Martin also hit a solo shot in the ninth for the Dodgers, who took advantage of eight walks, including three in the decisive fifth inning.

B.C. native Ryan Dempster (0-1) was charged with seven of the walks, as he yielded four hits and four runs in 4½ innings for the Cubs.

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Sports in brief

NFL Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Anquan Boldin sat out practice yesterday and is unsure when he will return to the gridiron after sustaining a sinus fracture in Sunday's game.

NFL The Pittsburgh Steelers have brought running back Najeh Davenport back into the fold after seeing starter Willie Parker and first-round draft pick Rashard Mendenhall go down in consecutive weeks.

NBA The San Antonio Spurs will reportedly have to play without guard Manu Ginobili until December, and possibly longer.

NFL The New Orleans Saints re-signed quarterback Joey Harrington, a former first-round pick, yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Philadelphia Phillies starter Cole Hamels gave up only two hits over eight innings yesterday in Game 1 of the National League Divisional Series against the Milwaukee Brewers.

LEFT: ZEE WANK/GETTY IMAGES

Metro Homes

Hardly small

Simple changes to traditional hardware can noticeably change the look of your entire kitchen. By switching out your cabinet handles, knobs and pulls, you can transform your kitchen into a room that reflects your personal style.

Practice makes perfect

VAKIS BOUTSALIS
for Metro Canada

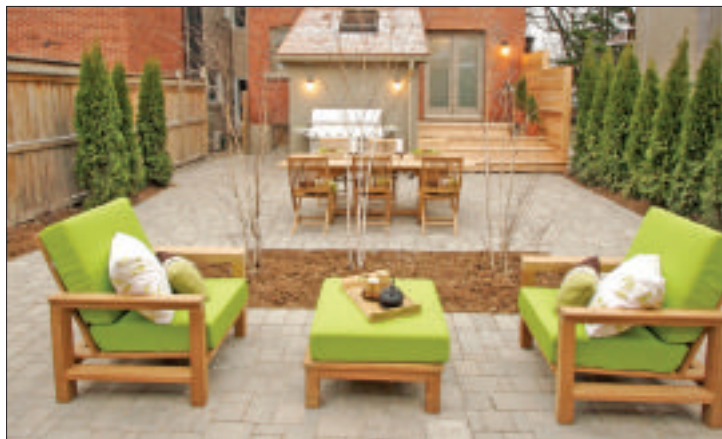
Just bought a new house? Want to try some do-it-yourself designs, but are a little intimidated? Peter Fallico, host of the upcoming HGTV series *Home to Flip*, has some advice: Go practice on your friend's house first.

"Find out if someone you know is doing some renovations and go hang out and ask questions," he says. "You learn through other people."

Exposing yourself to do-it-yourself design in small increments is helpful because it allows you to build confidence in your abilities. In Fallico's case, it was that confidence that motivated him to continue with designing.

"My own history is that I was just peddling around with stuff, and slowly, slowly, I kept learning, and picking stuff up," he says.

That is why Fallico says it's important to be honest with yourself when you are first starting out.



A renovated backyard from the new HGTV series *Home to Flip*.

"Assess your own skill level," he says, adding: "Don't jump into anything that is too ambitious."

If you can't find any friends to help break you into the world of design, Fallico suggests visiting the flea market for potential projects that can be as simple as buying something and then taking it home and painting it.

"Paint is one of the easiest ways of adding character and personality, and it's relatively inexpensive," he says.

After gaining some confidence with smaller projects, you can delve deeper into the world of do-it-yourself design. There is an abundance of resources available.

"It's amazing," he says.

"All the retailers are getting better with what they carry. Even the big box stores."

Some of his tips include using large pieces of artwork or mirrors in rooms in order to make an impact, as opposed to smaller pieces. He also suggests mixing vintage elements into rooms as a way of breaking up that "showroom" feel.

And while the recent ex-



Painting is one of the easiest ways to add character to your home, designer and HGTV host Peter Fallico says.

plosion of resources means design is readily available, it's also important to not get overwhelmed, or even worse, carried away.

"It's easy to go too far when you are designing,"

Fallico warns.

Home to Flip, which will highlight Fallico's do-it-yourself background as he tries to renovate and sell a house, debuts on Oct. 2 on HGTV.



Bright colours among this season's hottest trends

For those planning to update their homes or who are undergoing a major renovation, here are some of the hot emerging home trends

Putting bright colours in the bedroom, whether it's on the wall or in the linens, is key.

for this season, according to Anita Griffin, Canadian marketing brand manager for Hansgrohe:

THE TRADITIONAL OR MODERN BATHROOM

Two extremes characterize the current trend in bathroom décor — old-world

traditional or ultra-modern minimalism. Bring the romantic, majestic look of yesteryear to the bathroom with elaborate fixtures and accessories that feature the benefits of today's modern technology, such as the Axor Montreux bathroom faucet or a claw foot tub. Alternatively, pick up on the highly modern décor trend in the bathroom by adding pieces with simple details and a polished look. The Axor Citterio M showerhead is the ultimate sleek, European piece for a contemporary bathroom.

CHANGING FURNITURE IN THE LIVING ROOM

As the way we use our home evolves, so does our furniture. The hottest trend in furniture design is change: Pieces that can disappear when not in use or change their function quickly and easily. Chairs that can be stored in the closet until guests drop by are ideal. Coffee tables that expand and grow are the ultimate in convenience. And items with ample built-in storage help keep your living space neat and clutter-free.

TEXTURE IN THE KITCHEN

This season, the kitchen is about mixing textures, shapes and materials. Consider combining a rounded island with cabinets featuring harder, solid lines. Merge natural wood cabinets that showcase your green lifestyle with the modern flair of stainless steel (energy efficient) appliances. On your table, showcase your eclectic style with mixed patterns and colours in your tableware.

COLOUR IN THE BEDROOM

Whether it's on the wall or in the bed linens, bright, saturated colours are key in today's bedrooms. Decorative, intense patterns on bed linens are both visually stimulating and exotic, while bold colours on the wall showcase your dramatic and daring personality. For a unique take on colour, consider a wall tattoo. This new form of art is an easy way to add drama.

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Good for you

Low in calories, fennel is a very good source of dietary fibre, vitamin C, folate, potassium and manganese, as well as a good source of niacin, calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus and copper. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

lifestyle **15****Food**

"The fronds should be fresh and green — avoid flowering ones as that indicates age."

Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

**Pick of the crop**

Choose fennel that is firm, rounded, white and unblemished.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONews.CA

I can't believe it's not celery**À la carte**

Barb Holland

Metro Food Writer

Looking like a misshapen head of celery, fennel, sometimes labelled anise, has a mild and slightly sweet taste reminiscent of licorice. The greener the fennel base, the stronger the flavour. However, the flavour is muted when cooked. Use it raw like celery to toss in a salad or serve fennel sticks with a dip. It can be grilled, roasted, sautéed, braised or steamed.

Provençal-Style Fish Chowder

This healthy yet hearty soup can be stirred up quickly. Save some of the feathery fronds as a garnish for both colour and a bit more fennel flavour. If the fish is frozen, cut while frozen and increase cooking time a minute or two. Serve with crusty bread. Makes about 7 cups



The greener the fennel base, the stronger the flavour — which has a mild sweetness, not unlike licorice.

(1.75 L), 4 servings.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 small fennel bulb
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced

- 19 oz (540 ml) can Italian seasoned stewed tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) fish or chicken broth
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) Italian seasonings

- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) red pepper flakes, optional
- 1 lb (500 g) mild white fish (catfish, pollock, tilapia, cod, haddock), thawed if frozen, cut into

- 1-inch (2.5 cm) pieces
- Salt and pepper

METHOD:

Trim fennel by cutting off the skinny stalks and fronds. Remove any dry or

fibrous outer stalks of fennel base. Cut base into quarters, remove and discard core, then chop remaining fennel.

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add fennel and garlic and cook until fennel is softened, about five minutes. Stir in tomatoes (breaking up any large pieces), broth, seasonings and red pepper flakes. Bring to a boil over high heat. Stir in fish and cook until fish is done, about five minutes. To serve, garnish with chopped fennel tops and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Tips:

- Storing: Fennel will keep in the fridge in a perforated plastic bag for a few days.
- Cooking: Trim a little off the base, remove any dry or fibrous outer layers, skinny stalks and fronds. Wash remaining, cut and serve raw or cooked. Fennel browns after cutting so sprinkle with lemon juice if not using immediately.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

Double German duty

Oktoberfest is here and the September/October issue of **DRAFT** — the magazine for beer enthusiasts — offers two simple recipes to turn any beer bash into an authentic German soiree:

Soft Pretzels with Honey Mustard Sauce**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 package of active dry yeast
- 5 cups flour
- 1 1/3 cup warm water
- 1/8 cup warm water
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- Water, baking soda
- Sea salt

Honey Mustard Dip

- 5 ounces crème fraîche
- 3 tbsp German honey
- 2 tbsp German mustard
- Salt and sugar to taste

METHOD:**Soft Pretzels Directions:**

Dissolve yeast in 1/8 cup warm water. Stir in 1 1/3 cups warm water, brown sugar and flour. Beat until smooth. Knead dough until smooth and elastic.

Heat oven to 475 degrees. In a saucepan, add 2 tablespoons baking soda to each cup of water. Use enough to fill the saucepan; bring to a boil. Tear off some dough and roll a pencil shape with your hands. Pick up both ends, cross to form rabbit ears and then twist the ends and pull them back to the rest of the loop.

Place twisted pretzels in water/baking soda mixture for 15 seconds until pretzel dough is golden or yellow in color. Remove pretzels from boiling water



Here's a great Oktoberfest snack and dessert.

and place onto a salted cookie sheet. Dust the top of pretzels with sea salt. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until golden brown.

Honey Mustard Dip

Directions: Stir crème fraîche, honey and mustard until creamy. Add sugar and salt to taste.

Cherry, Quark and Pumpernickel Trifle**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 large jar German cherries in juice
- 2 slices German pumpernickel
- 2 250-gram tubs quark (German yogurt cheese available at specialty food stores)
- 2/3 cup milk



- 2 ounces German dark chocolate
- 3 tbsp sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

METHOD:

Beat together quark, milk, vanilla and sugar until smooth. Using a food processor, reduce the pumpernickel to fine crumbs. Finely grate the chocolate and mix with the pumpernickel crumbs.

Drain cherries. Make layers in 6 wine glasses: Place cherries at the bottom, top with a spoonful of quark, then scatter a spoonful of pumpernickel. Repeat layers, finishing with a quark layer. Top with cherries and pumpernickel crumbs. Chill overnight.



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Hardy Amies, the fashion house that dressed Britain's Queen Elizabeth for more than 30 years, plans to file for administration after failing to find new sources of funding, though it added that talks continue. **REUTERS**

Style



The appeal of fig

Loyal Marc Jacobs consumers should check out his newest limited edition eau de toilette for men called Marc Jacobs Fig. encompassing some of the core notes of his original fragrances, this 300 ml tonic offers a refreshing, lighter formula. Top notes include fresh yuzu zest and Tuscan cypress while the heart of it reveals the warm richness of the delicate fruit it's named after. Available at Holt Renfrew stores across Canada for \$60. **METRO NEWS SERVICE**

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Cape couture for fall

Style File

Kim Elbo



kim.elbo@metronews.ca

ask kim

I bought a leather handbag from a vintage store and it has a distinctive odour to it that I want to get rid of. I love the bag and its design. What can I do to get rid of the smell?

Try dampening a cloth with vinegar and wipe the inside and outside of your bag with the cloth, or submerge the bag into a solution of warm water and baking soda. Both of these methods should completely eliminate the unwanted odour. — *about.com*



Buttoned

Designer: Costa Blanca
Shop: Costa Blanca
Address: Various Locations
costablanca.ca

Draped

Designer: n/a
Shop: Aritzia
Address: Various Locations
aritzia.com

Hooded

Designer: Kersch
Shop: Fine Finds
finefindsboutique.com

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

cape town

Throw on a knitted cape for a chic casual look. This is one major accessory staple that should be added to your fall wardrobe collection. If you like the cape look for off-season, I'd suggest purchasing a light neutral colour that can take you from fall into spring. The Aritzia cape is perfect for this as it's a light knit and it's cropped. Tip: Try to strictly wear your cape with a pant; anything else, like an A-line skirt, runs the risk of turning your outfit into a funny-looking two-tiered dress.

accessory

One of the best necklaces I have seen this fall. Pair with a simple navy dress or a white T-shirt. Designed by Alexis Bittar. Available at Blue Ruby, blueruby.com



tip: Paid a small fortune on that designer bag you're carrying? Well, if you get caught in a downpour it's going to get wet so cover it up with Rain Couture. Rain Couture is a collection of small waterproof bags that help protect your purse from the rain. — *crazyforthat.com*

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- Grand Oasis Marien – Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

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Stars at the Grawood

Critically acclaimed and 2008 Polaris Music Prize nominees Stars have added an all-ages show at The Grawood on Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m. The show is an addition to a previously scheduled 19-and-over performance a night earlier at The Marquee. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Entertainment

Sloan to open

Sloan have been named as the opening act for the Lenny Kravitz concert at the Halifax Metro Centre on Oct. 17. Tickets are \$55 and \$39.50, plus service charges. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Ready for Regis?

Popular TV host set for Casino Nova Scotia shows

PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

Regis Philbin sings in his nightclub act. He does comedy. He even gets the audience involved.

But cooking? There will be none of that.

"It's hard to explain, but some people think I'm going to go up there and doing a segment of cooking," Philbin said, in his familiar loud, sarcastic tone. "That's not going to be it. No cooking."

Best known as the co-host of the hit morning TV show *Live With Regis And Kelly*, Philbin has spent the last 25 years performing a nightclub act in cities such as Atlantic City and Las Vegas.

This weekend, he's taking his nightclub show to Halifax for the first time with dates tomorrow and Saturday at the Casino Nova Scotia's Schooner Room. Start time each night is 8 p.m.

"It gives me a chance to get out of my little studio and see the people who are watching us every day," Philbin said. "I'm kind of curious and anxious to get up there and do it."

No doubt his fans are, too. The act combines music with Philbin's wit and knack for storytelling. He'll be accompanied by an orchestra, and play some of the greatest hits in pop music, including Pennies From Heaven and *I Had To Be You*.

"One night, I actually sang a song to Bing Crosby on the old Joey Bishop show some years ago, and I got a recording contact. And that was the begin-



Regis Philbin celebrated with 77th birthday in August.

If you go

- **WHAT:** Regis Philbin
- **WHEN:** Tomorrow and Saturday, 8 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Casino Nova Scotia's Schooner Room
- **TICKETS:** Cost is \$93. Phone 451-1221 or visit www.ticketatlantic.com.

ning of it," said Philbin, who has three albums to his credit, including the 2004 release *When You're Smiling*.

"It's just one of those dreams that came true — but I know what my real job is and that's talking."

Philbin turned 77 in August, but has no plans of slowing his hectic pace. He still loves hosting his TV show, and enjoys the travelling that comes with the nightclub act.

"It's a change of pace," he said. "You're in the same studio everyday and when you do it for 40 years, you look forward to getting and seeing the rest of the world."

Gifts help welcome Philbin to Nova Scotia

PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

CELEBRITY Regis Philbin hasn't arrived in Halifax, but is already receiving a taste of Nova Scotia hospitality.

The TV icon has been getting plenty of gifts in regards to his first visit to the province, including a Nova Scotia tour book, a sou'wester, a blue nose and

a can of Keith's beer.

"My God, the people there are so welcoming," Philbin said in a phone interview this week from New York. "I've got a shoebox full of things."

Philbin plans to be out-and-about during his 48-hour stay here. He said a former camera person for *Live With Regis And Kelly*, Liz Cunningham, now lives in the region and will be

showing him the sights throughout the day on Saturday. Philbin flies into Halifax tomorrow.

"I'll probably have some pictures to show everybody (on Monday)," Philbin said in regards to his TV show.

Philbin has been talking about his trip on *Live With Regis And Kelly* all week. He even showed some of the gifts on air.

Who's the artist? Buy it and find out

FUNDRAISER The Ross Creek Centre for the Arts is hosting a popular fundraiser in Halifax this weekend.

The "secret" show is taking place Saturday and Sunday at the Argyle Fine Art Gallery, where postcard-sized pieces of original art will be up for sale. Each piece costs \$50, with the identity of the artist kept secret until after the particular work is purchased.

Artists from across Canada are involved in the fundraiser, which supports the art academy programs for young people at Ross Creek Centre for the Arts, which is located in Canning.

"We have over 200 works by over a hundred artists, and we're thrilled that we have some of Canada's most established artists such as Margaret Atwood and Ami McKay,"



One of the pieces up for grab at this weekend's "secret" fundraiser at Argyle Fine Art Gallery in Halifax.

Chris O'Neill, the executive director of Ross Creek, said in a release. "The fun part about the event is that people don't know if the art they're buying is by a famous artist or an emerging artist."

Each artist has donated at least one piece, ranging from paint and drawing to sculpture and metalwork.

Each artist has also signed the back of their work.

A reception and viewing for the show goes Saturday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The sale takes place Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Images and the artists biographies are available at the Ross Creek website at www.artscentre.ca.

METRO HALIFAX

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metro
Do it daily.

Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones reportedly want to make a third Men in Black film. Both actors are keen to star in the sequel, but other movie commitments are preventing them from having the time to make it. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

In brief

CUSTODY Sharon Stone has so overreacted to her eight-year-old son Roan's health issues that she suggested he get a Botox treatment for his smelly feet, according to the judge in the actress' custody case. In Superior Court papers, the judge also said Stone "delegates many of her parenting responsibilities to third parties" and has "simply refused" to participate in counselling unless her "schedule is accommodated and her demands are met," People.com reports. "Such conduct on the part of any parent ... is unacceptable and does not serve the child's best interest," the San Francisco judge writes in the document.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ILLNESS Janet Jackson postponed two concert tour dates this week after the singer was rushed to a hospital with an unexplained illness minutes before a performance in Montreal. Jackson's representatives said in a statement the singer Monday night "got suddenly ill during her sound check ... and had to be rushed to the hospital just before showtime." Jackson checked into Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and was discharged two hours later, said a spokeswoman for the hospital.

REUTERS

Drunk sidekick steals film

RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Canada

While the title characters played by Michael Cera and Kat Dennings are the stars of Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist, audiences leaving the Toronto International Film Festival screenings of the film were unanimous that Ari Graynor almost stole the film from them in every scene she played as Caroline, Nora's best friend, who spent the majority of her screen time ruinously drunk over the course of a long New York night.

It helped that she was handed several indelible scenes, one of which — Graynor's Caroline hunched over a filthy toilet in the Port Authority Bus Terminal, retrieving a piece of chewed gum that's a cross between her talisman and security blanket — will become her clip reel highlight if she rides this sudden flare of notoriety into a bigger career.

Nick and Nora's director Peter Sollett gives her cred-



Ari Graynor, centre, stars with Michael Cera and Kat Dennings in Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist.

it for fleshing out the character of Caroline on the spot during the film's location shoot, and describes one loopy but wildly endearing scene Graynor plays with character actor Kevin Corrigan.

"She's tremendous, and I think people are going to fall in love with her, and she's an incredible improv-

isational actress. There are scenes in the film that she invented, like the turkey sandwich scene was not in the script. Kevin Corrigan was into music and New York kind of movies, and we didn't have a scene for him, but he showed up and we had the Port Authority for the night. He said he didn't want to

speak — it was very challenging. So it was up to Ari to carry the scene and invent something that could be a standalone."

"I have a lot of love for Caroline," Graynor insists, "and I don't have a lot of judgment for her because it's a night and a situation that everyone has found themselves in at some

point. It's not like I think someone should get wasted and throw up and have a disgusting night, but I also think that it's a rite of passage of growing up and I think that she's smart and she loves her friends and she's insecure and needy and I think she's like everybody else. And technically these situations are a little dangerous, but I think she's smarter than she appears to be.

"Aside from my own few college experiences to draw on," Graynor recalls, describing how she prepared for the role, "I actually got a little method-y and I had my boyfriend and friend videotape me getting drunk before we started shooting ... I wanted to have as many levels as you can. I know it sounds ridiculous but ... it's the big comedic moment so you've got to go for it ... But to try and keep it grounded, I wanted to see how ridiculous I was when drunk, and frankly ... I'm pretty ridiculous."

Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist opens tomorrow.

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Bollywood grinds to a halt

India's Bollywood film and TV industry has ground to a halt after technicians and actors walked out in a strike over pay and conditions. Unions representing film employees in Mumbai claim that many of their members have gone without pay for several months. **IMDB.COM**



Above: Dal students Emily Armstrong, left, Stephanie Brodie, Carly Schofield and Lauren Quattrocchi make new friends at Bubbles Mansion.

Right: Hedley fans Khace Stymest and Sarah Ballah at the Democracy 250 concert.



Right: Kendal Singh, left, Arielle Figoe, Erica Newman and Nisha Sewell party with the Dal Lacrosse team at the Coconut Grove.



Left: Ellen Garson, left, Keli Tobias and Leah Tarlao enjoy the Mosaic sidewalk patio.



Right: Bryan Lunn, left, Lynn Lam, Sarah Humphrey and Raymond Henick watch Hedley at the Democracy 250 concert.



Left: Janice Bernard, from top, Kara Paul and Cheryl Knockwood rockin' to Hedley Saturday night.



Above: Deidre Barkhouse (soon to be Manning) and her bachelorette party friends take on Halifax Saturday night.

High heels and high spirits

HalifaxScene

Jamie Paterson



One small step for man ... one big blister on my left foot! Not a cross-dresser by nature, I found myself hobbling along Argyle Street in a pair of size 12 pumps this week.

It was in support of the YWCA of Halifax and I was not alone; over 50 men from all walks of life donned high heels for the Cardel Walk A Mile in Her Shoes fundraiser.

We made quite the sight, trooping around the Grand Parade and trying to navigate the stone steps. Magazine publisher Neville Gilfoy, Frankie Hollywood from The Bounce and NDP MLA Leonard Preyra were all exceptional as we tripped around.

The money raised goes to support programs for women, helping to get them off the street, improving their health and helping others gain post-secondary education.

Friday was the start of a crazy weekend downtown. First stop was the monthly Molson Give-R, this time at The Alehouse. The cover charge and proceeds from

the 50/50 draw went to Craig's Cause, helping support those with pancreatic cancer. More than \$1,100 was raised, but the night wrapped up early, at least early for a Give-R.

The Dartmouth Pig Dogs Rugby team may have been primed to party, but many on hand finished their beer in time to slip next door to the Halifax Metro Centre for the first of two sold-out Elton John shows.

If you were lucky to get a ticket, you were not disappointed with the almost three-hour performance by the man and his piano. Sir Elton even paused before his encore to sign autographs for some in the front row.

Speaking of front row, my Scene Spies tell me that Elton's people handed out front row tickets to some uber-enthusiastic fans outside the Metro Centre before Saturday's show.

Some other spies also tell me Captain Fantastic didn't stay at any local hotel during his time in Halifax; rather, he spent time in Chester with a very well known Nova Scotia business family.

Concertgoers on Saturday spilled out into the streets in time to catch the final hour of the Rockin' In the Free World show at the Grand Parade.

The D250 initiative is de-

signed to get more young people interested in the political process and ultimately to get out and vote.

The nine-hour free concert was headlined by Juno-nominated Hedley and supported by the likes of ill Scarlet, Jordan Croucher, Dwight d'Eon and Canadian Idol winner Theo Tams. Luckily the weather held off.

Organizers of the Scotiabank Aids Walk for Life weren't as fortunate. The walk part of the event was cancelled in favour of an afternoon at Bloomfield Centre. Hosted by florist Neville MacKay and Q-104's Lisa Blackburn, the afternoon raised over \$40,000.

A good chunk of that money came from the MAC cosmetics team who held their third annual team fundraiser at FRED on Agricola Street Saturday night. As promised, there was plenty of eye candy and music from DJ Double A and Logan. The dancing continued out the door and onto the sidewalk!

Speaking of dancing, that will be the big focus next week, as I dance my way into the 1750s. I'll be the one in the top hat and tails (and please, no more high heels).

When he's not making the Scene, Jamie Paterson hosts The Drive and The Beatlebrunch on KOOL FM in Halifax



Above: Metro Halifax publisher Greg Lutes and yours truly compare pumps during Walk A Mile In Her Shoes.



Above: Angela Franko and Julian Taylor catch Jason Collett at the Seahorse Tavern.



Above: Jenny Kennah and Natalie MacNeil raise a glass Saturday night at Mosaic.



Actor Kiefer Sutherland fears fans of his TV series 24 will have to wait several years for a big screen adaptation of the hit show. He admits a movie version of the series won't get the green light until the TV show has been wrapped up. **IMDb.COM**

***** A CLASSIC; **** EXCELLENT; *** GOOD; ** FAIR; * POOR

T.I. tears up Paper Trail

T.I.

Album: Paper Trail
Label: Grand Hustle/Warner
Rating: ****

CLIFFORD HARRIS (T.I.) has packed a lot of trouble and contradictions into his 28 years. Alimony troubles, drugs charges, weapons charges, assault charges ... and yet he's also done his share of charity work (not all of it court ordered). He's a warts-and-all type of guy, and it shows on Paper Trail. T.I. dishes openly about his life on the too-long Paper Trail, which also includes its share of generic sex and party jams, including the No. 1 hit Whatever You Like. The music is lazy. Cheesy synth abounds. Several tracks shine: My Life Your Entertainment with Usher is a perceptive, catchy analysis of celebrity. Swagga Like Us with Jay-Z, Kanye West, Lil' Wayne and M.I.A. sample is menacing and mesmerizing.

Jim Reyno/Metro Canada



T.I. dishes openly about his troubled life on Paper Trail.

Ben Folds

Album: Way To Normal
Label: Epic/Sony BMG
Rating: ****

IF YOU REMEMBER the Ben Folds Five '97 ditty Song For The Dumped, then here's what you'd call nearly an entire album for the dumped.



North Carolina's own Elton John returns with all the exuberance of his days with the aforementioned trio, delivering his relationship-gone-south fare in either cinematic bitter-sweet or raw-and-direct fashion. Balanced with wacky odes to a concert head injury and a beloved pooch, this is the sound of Ben Folds succeeding in returning to normal.

Ian Nathanson/Metro Canada

AlbumReviews

music@metronews.ca

James Morrison

Album: Songs For You, Truths For Me
Label: Interscope/Universal
Rating: ****

THE KIDS SEEM

to be rediscovering the sound of Stevie Wonder, which is probably a good thing. It saves Morrison's CD from being tossed on a heap entitled "This Year's James Blunt." So the Brit-pop cutie funks it up on a dozen original tracks by Morrison and a bunch of hired co-writers. If you want to try something closer to the real thing try a new CD by Raphael Saadiq. The Way I See It. He's even got Wonder playing harmonica on it.

Graham Rockingham/Metro Canada

Read reviews of albums from 54.40, Robin Thicke, Jenny Lewis and James Taylor at metronews.ca

Family to return

COME ON GET HAPPY: As if a looming recession and an energy crisis weren't enough, TV is hell-bent on bringing back the '70s with its worst prime-time lineup in decades, and now there's this little shudder-inducing harbinger of things to come — the Partridge Family is coming back.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, NBC has signed on for a remake of the sitcom that ran on ABC from 1970 to 1974, to be written by Jeff Rake, of Cashmere Mafia, Bones and Boston Legal fame. Rake calls himself a fan of the original show, but told the Reporter he intends to "turn the premise on its head."

"In the original, the kids actually recruited their mom to front the band, which I can't see happening in any family on this planet," Take said. "The new version will reflect what seems to me to be the more realistic family band scenario these days: a struggling, sort of well-meaning mom pimping her kids in order to create a wholesome-slash-sexy cash cow."

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

TV DINNER: The Food Network has an unusually strong slate of new shows this fall, and the best aren't necessarily helmed by blue chip celebrity chefs.

Their daytime programming has been livened up by the premiere today of Everyday Exotic, starring Toronto chef Roger Mooking. You might remember Mooking as one third of Bass Is Base, the late '90s dance combo.

Mooking does a lot more than just tell distracted housewives and househusbands how to spice up their vodka penne, and in addition to showing off some impressive knife skills, he actually features a few really useful techniques and ingredients.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
10/2/08	31	31	31	ABC News (N)	ABC World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Ugly Betty (N)		Vice Presidential Debate (HDTV) (Live)		
	7	7	7	ASN The Road to Avonlea	Robson Arms	TMZ (N)	Hole in the Wall (N)	To Be Announced		To Be Announced	America-Talent	
	11	11	11	CBC Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things	Enquête (HDTV) (SC)	Enquête (HDTV) (SC)		Political Debate (HDTV) (Live)		
	2	2	2	CBC-F Terre humaine	Grand-papa	Virginie (SC)	Infoman (SC)	Grosse vie (N)	C.A. (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal		
	32	32	32	CBS News (N)	Evening News	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Survivor: Gabon (N)		Vice Presidential Debate (Live)		
	69	69	69	CFTM TVA 18 heures	Le Cercle (SC)	La Fière de la danse (SC)	Occupation double			Vlog (SC)	TVA 22 heures	
	6	6	6	CHP Entertainment	ET Canada	The Office	The Office	Survivor: Gabon (N)		Political Debate (Live)		
	9	9	9	CJCH eTalk	Hollywood	Law & Order		CSI: Crime Scene Investg.		Political Debate (Live)		
	10	10	10	ELTV (6) EastLink Television				Podium TV		EastLink Television		
	36	36	36	FOX Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Hole in the Wall (N)		Vice Presidential Debate (Live)		
news	12	12	12	NBC News (N)	NBC News	How/High	Extra (N)	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Vice Presidential Debate (Live)		
	29	29	29	NW World News	Business	CBC News: Around the World	Basic Black	Canada Votes (9:45) CBC News Special (Live)		Vice Presidential Debate (HDTV) (Live)		
	4	4	4	PBS-B NewsHour with Jim Lehrer	NewsHour with Jim Lehrer	Greater Boston	World News	Debating Our Destiny II		Vice Presidential Debate (HDTV) (Live)		
	35	35	35	PBS-D NewsHour with Jim Lehrer	Business Rpt.	Business Rpt.	World News	This Old Hse.	This Old Hse.	Vice Presidential Debate (HDTV) (Live)		
	68	68	68	TQS (6:30) Le Retour (SC)	Grande fille	Loft Story	L'Evangile du mensonge (2006, Suspense)	Alexandra Paul.		110 pour cent		
	23	96	96	BNN Business News	Headline	Market Call	Commodities	GetConnected Business News	Squeeze Play	Market Call		
	18	18	18	CNN (5) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center	Larry King Live	Cooper 360		
	54	54	54	GOLF Post Game	LPGA Tour Golf	Samung World Championship -- First Round.		PGA Tour Golf: Turning Stone Resort Championship				
	52	52	52	RSE Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.	MLB Baseball Division Series -- Teams TBA. (Live)						
	55	55	55	SCOR Hockey Talk	Game On	Score on NFL	College Football	Pittsburgh at South Florida. (Live)				
sports	45	45	45	SPD Unique Whips		American Le Mans Preview		Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV) (N)		
	53	53	53	TSN Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	Interruption	Boxing Ricardo Mayorga vs. Shane Mosley. (HDTV)				
	43	43	43	FAM Zoey 101	Life Derek	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han, Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School
	44	44	44	TOON World of Quest	Johnny Test	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic (N)	
	26	26	26	TREE Fifi-Flowerlotts	Backyardigans	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Night Grdn	Bucket-Dinos	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch
	27	27	27	YTV Drake & Josh	iCarly	House Hunters	Property Virgin	NCIS "Trojan Horse"	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	
	16	16	16	A&E Cold Case Files		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)	Jacked: Theft	
	70	70	70	APTN News		Suaanga	Rez Rides	Next! Youth	renegadeexpress	Wild Wild West * (1999, Action)	Will Smith.	
	50	50	50	BET 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	Top 10 (Live)			Three Can Play That Game (2008, Romance-Comedy)		Jenn. Hudson		
	37	37	37	BRVO Street Legal		Desperate Housewives		Does Art Matter?: Election		Ham & Cheese ** (2004, Comedy)		
family	97	97	97	CLT Mysterious Ways		Judging Amy		Isaac Littlefathers ** (1984, Drama)	Lou Jacob.		Mysterious	
	25	25	25	CMT Ultimate "Canadian"				Karaoke Star "Finale" (Series Finale) (Live)			Gone Country	
	49	49	49	COM Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Force	Just for Laughs	Corner Gas		The Simpsons	South Park	VIP
	153	153	153	COURT Truth, Duty, Valour		The Investigators		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Navy SEALs: Untold Stories	Investigators	
	38	38	38	DISC How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		In the Shadow of the Moon			MythBusters	
	34	34	34	HGTV Holmes on Homes		House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	
	46	46	46	HIST The Perfect Weapon		NCIS "Trojan Horse"		Lost Worlds		The Perfect Weapon	NCIS	How to Flip
	17	17	17	MM Pimp My Ride	disBand			MTV's Top Pop Group		Instant Star	Instant Star	Greek
	19	19	19	MMM MusicProfile	mmmtop10.com			Celine Dion: Woman		Revival	Where You At	Work for Diddy
	201	201	201	M1 (7:15) The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007, Western)		Ed's Up	Videos	Commando: On the Front Line		Survivorman		Pilot Guides
cable variety	48	23	23	OLN The Amazing Race 2		House-Payne	House-Payne	Bridge Jones: The Edge of Reason ** (2004)		Full Metal Jacket *** (1987, War)		Family Guy
	51	51	51	5EACH Seinfeld	Seinfeld	(7:45) The Missouri Breaks *** (1976, Western) Marlon Brando.		Grandes reportages (SC)		Elections Canada 2008		
	206	206	206	PIX Monkey Shines		(7:45) The Missouri Breaks *** (1976, Western) Marlon Brando.		ReGenesis (HDTV)		Trail Park	Trail Park	Saving Grace
	67	67	67	RDI RDI en direct	RDI en direct	Elections Canada 2008		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Biggest Loser
	39	39	39	SHOW Spaced		Painkiller Jane		Star Trek: Voyager		Battlestar Galactica		Chuck
	40	40	40	SLICE Matchmaker	Til Debt-Part	End of Leash	ET Canada	CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		Look-A-Like	In Fashion	Tonight Show
	47	47	47	SPACE Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		Lost "Outlaws"		Overhaulin' (HDTV)		American Chopper		Street
	14	14	14	SPRKE CSI: Crime Scene Investg.		The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	eTalk	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	98	98	98	STAR FashionTele	Look-A-Like	LA Ink (HDTV)		Make or Break	What Happen?	Envoyé spécial "Ecoles-Lhasa"		
	21	21	21	TLC What Not to Wear		Beverly Hills, 90210		Club social		Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories		
cable variety	56	34	34	TROP Make or Break	Naked Fashion	Journal de Fuite		Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Open House
	20	20	20	TVS Que-champion		Murder, She Wrote		Smallville "Toxic" (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		WGN News
	28	28	28	W Jazi-H "Lightning"		Style by Jury						
	22	22	22	W Shopping Bags		Will & Grace	Friends					
	251	251	251	WGN Be-Millionaire	Evening News	Two/Half Men	Family Guy					

critics'corner

The Nature of Things

Columbus was looking for India. The folks who created Viagra were looking for a high-blood-pressure treatment. In the season premiere, "Gone Sideways," host David Suzuki surveys a number of discoveries and breakthroughs that happened by accident, including some revolutionary cures for diseases and the invention of the X-ray machine. 8 PM on CBC



My Name Is Earl

In this new episode, Earl's (Jason Lee) attempt to give Joy (Jaime Pressly) a hot tub backfires when she gets a flesh-eating toe infection, and she's forced to stay in a makeshift plastic bubble. To keep order in their world, Earl falls in as the new Joy while she is out of commission. That means gossiping with the girls at the hair salon and shopping for meat out of some guy's trunk. 9 PM on NBC

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

Noted artist Julian Schnabel earned a number of prestigious awards for directing this true drama about a magazine editor suddenly incapacitated by a stroke. Played by Mathieu Amalric (Daniel Craig's main foe in the forthcoming James Bond movie "Quantum of Solace"), the man communicates by blinking. He also survives through vicariously reliving memories in which he is fully mobile. 10 PM on M1

Loved ones bid Newman farewell

PEOPLE Paul Newman

Paul Newman was cremated after a private funeral service near his home in Westport, Conn., on Monday, website femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The late actor's close friends and family congregated in the town to mourn and celebrate the movie legend's life, before heading to a reception at The Dressing Room, the Westport restaurant Newman owned.

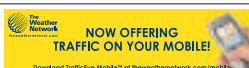
Newman died on Friday, at the age of 83.

McCartney ignites Fireman project

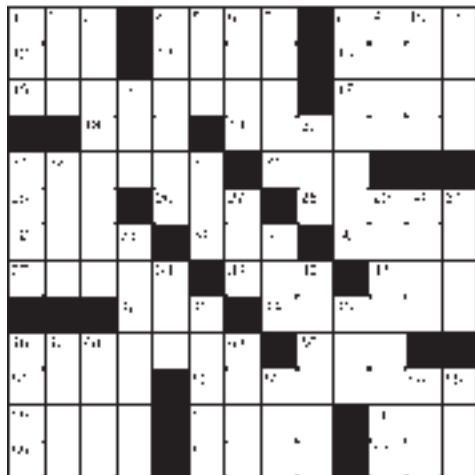
MUSIC Paul McCartney is returning to his Fireman alias after a decade away from the musical collaboration with producer Youth, Reuters reports.

McCartney will release Electric Arguments by the Fireman on Nov. 17 via MPL, an imprint of his London-based publishing company. The 13-track album will be manufactured and distributed by U.K. indie One Little Indian worldwide except in the U.S., where ATO will issue it.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	5		8			1		
2			9					5
		8		7	3			6
		7		4	2			9
3			7	1		2		
6			4	5		9		
8					6			1
	9		8		7			

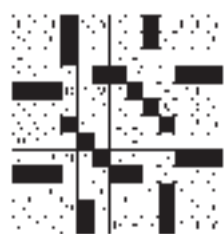
Crossword across

- 1 "Angela's Ashes" sequel
4 Spencer of "The Insider"
8 Junk e-mail
12 Commotion
13 Rainbow
14 Radius neighbor
15 Video-game controller
17 Night light?
18 Perch
19 Scopamine source
21 Put one over
24 Coloring agent
25 Cassowary look-alike
26 Wardrobe malfunction
28 Plotters' group
32 Rocking jagger
34 Awkward guy
36 Oliver Twist's request
37 Trusty horse
39 "— the Dog"
41 Favorable vote
42 Take to court
44 Powerful star-like object
46 Subterfuge
50 Biz letterhead abbr.
51 Perjurer
52 Buzz
Lightyear's movie
56 Land measure
57 Curved molding
58 Guitar's kin
59 Holler
60 Defeat
61 Heavy weight

Crossword down

- 1 — Mahal
2 Altar affirmative
3 Chinese food condiment
4 Type of bug?
5 Jackie's second hubby
6 Affluent
7 Requested
8 Ray from Ra?
9 "Not guilty," e.g.
10 Uncredited in "Bartlett's"
11 Lion's pride
16 Pack quantity
20 Big Apple letters
21 Fixes a skirt
22 Leave out
23 God, in Italian
27 Manhandle
29 Merit-badge earner
30 Vicinity
31 Mad Shakespearean king
32 Variety of falcon
33 Website info format
38 Payable
40 Masks
43 Praise to the skies
45 Pismire
46 Stage show
47 Houston university
48 Count counterpart
49 African republic
53 "Certainly"
54 Old movie-house letters
55 Longing

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



5	7	6	3	8	2	9	4	1
1	3	2	5	9	4	6	8	7
4	8	9	1	6	7	3	2	5
7	2	8	9	3	1	4	5	6
9	1	5	6	4	8	2	7	3
3	6	4	2	7	5	1	9	8
8	9	1	4	5	6	7	3	2
6	4	7	8	2	3	5	1	9
2	5	3	7	1	9	8	6	4

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

- Under 13 minGenius
13-17 minScholar
17-21 minSmart
21-25 minNot bad
25+ minKeep practising

Recipe of the day



Spinach and Potato Frittata

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb (500 g) russet potatoes, cut into 1/2-in. (1-cm) cubes
3 cups (750 mL) baby spinach leaves, trimmed of stalks
1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
1 red pepper, quartered, seeded and thinly sliced
5-6 scallions, thinly sliced
3 egg whites
2 whole eggs
2 tbsp (25 mL) Parmesan cheese
Salt and pepper

METHOD:

1. Cook potatoes in boiling water until almost tender, 5 to 6 minutes. Place spinach in a steamer or colander over potatoes and cook until potatoes are tender and spinach has wilted, another 5 minutes. Drain potatoes. Press spinach with the back of a spoon to extract excess moisture, then chop.
2. Heat oil in a non-stick skillet. Add pepper slices and sauté over medium heat for 2

minutes. Stir in potatoes and scallions and continue cooking for 2 minutes.

3. Beat egg whites and whole eggs in a large bowl, season lightly with salt and pepper, and mix in spinach. With a slotted spoon, remove vegetables from skillet and add to egg mixture, leaving remaining oil in the pan. Stir egg and vegetables briefly to mix, then pour into skillet. Cover and cook, without stirring, until omelette is almost set but still a little soft on top, about 6 minutes. Preheat broiler.

4. Dust frittata with Parmesan and place under broiler. Cook until browned and puffed around edges, 3 to 4 minutes. Cut into quarters or wedges and serve.

SERVES 6

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20

A rebel spirit is essential to your needs. An honest person will find a balance. Something exciting will happen.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23

An unusual event can become enjoyable. A whiner wants to use you for sympathy. Pride causes someone to have a bad day.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

A magnetic person becomes a casualty of love. An idle chatterer accomplishes more than a feisty debater. Someone plays the fool.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

Practice what you preach. A regrettable mistake follows a warning of danger. Come up with entertaining ideas for the weekend.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21

You can play mind games in the right place. Your tyrannical side is a surprise to others. An injured party threatens to make a deal.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21

A daydreamer has some brilliant ideas. Open your mind to unthinkable solutions. Toss aside your superstitions about good luck.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

A secret reward raises your spirits. A lover's chat becomes a scandal. Don't be heartless about a significant event.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20

You'll get bogged down in endless blunders. Meet with people who can help you. You'll cast a suspicious glance at the stock market.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23

Play nice with a wounded woman. An awesome stranger will come to your rescue. A clumsy girl is standing on shaky ground.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18

Good fun with your friends is exactly what you need. Give the impression that you control your life. Compassion leads to improvements.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22

A disagreement is dissipated by timely laughter. A friend contributes to problem solving. The chance of a lifetime comes from a hard-working woman.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

You'll be trusted with a secret. It's not a good idea to bore anyone. Don't take troubled times personally.



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22 entertainment

Superman house saved

Superman fans have succeeded in their bid to rebuild the house where the legendary character was first created by Jerry Siegel in Cleveland, Ohio. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

DiCaprio wants to wed

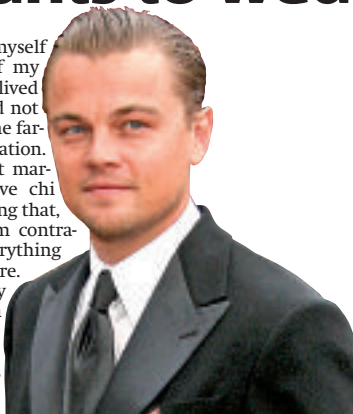
RELATIONSHIPS Actor Leonardo DiCaprio wants to get married because he is keen to live a normal life, imdb.com reports.

The 33-year-old star is reportedly sick of travelling the world and living on movie sets and confesses he would like to settle down and start a family to make him feel more grounded.

"What I definitely feel a need for is to make my life about more than just my career," he tells *Parade* magazine. "Just last night I was

thinking to myself how little of my life has been lived normally and not spent on some far-off movie location. I want to get married and have children. In saying that, I realize I am contradicting everything I've said before. I absolutely believe in marriage."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

celebrity brief

Paris changes her flight plans

GOSSIP Paris Hilton has vowed never to set foot on another Learjet aircraft after her pals Travis Barker and Adam (DJ Am) Goldstein almost lost their lives in a plane crash last month, imdb.com reports.

The socialite admits she occasionally flies to Las Vegas in the same type of plane Barker and Goldstein were onboard when it failed to clear an airport runway in South Carolina on Sept. 19.

Four people died in the tragedy and the two stars were hospitalized with severe burn injuries.

News of the crash stunned Hilton, who was onboard a plane bound for Milan, Italy at the time, and now she's rethinking her own travel plans.

"I couldn't believe it," she says. "I'm scared to go on small airplanes now. Sometimes in Vegas, I've been on that sort of plane and now I'll never go on one again."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Big changes at the Wahlbergs

GOSSIP Mark Wahlberg and his fiancée Rhea Durham have named their newborn baby son Brendan Joseph, imdb.com reports.

The baby was born on Sept. 16 and joins siblings Ella Rae, five, and Michael, two.

It's a busy time for the Wahlberg clan. America's Life + Style magazine has just revealed the family is moving.

Wahlberg has put his Beverly Hills home on the market for \$15.9 million US — more than \$10 million more than the price he paid for the property.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Richie on the road again



LEGAL Socialite Nicole Richie is back behind the wheel a year after she was convicted of driving under the influence (DUI), imdb.com reports.

The former Simple Life star's licence was officially changed from suspended to restricted on Sept. 19, according to Los

Angeles Department of Motor Vehicles records.

Richie served 82 minutes behind bars and had to undertake an 18-month anti- DUI course after she was caught driving the wrong way down a freeway ramp road.

As a restricted licence holder, Richie can now use her car for work-related activities.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fox is officially a fox

POLL It's official: Megan Fox is hot, intouchweekly.com reports.

The actress tops *Movie-fone's* list of the 25 Hottest Actors Under 25.

"I honestly believe that Megan is here to stay," said Robert Weide, her director for the upcoming film *How to Lose Friends & Alienate People*.

"She'll constantly surprise people by her range. Anyone who thinks she's

just a pretty face is going to be surprised in the same way they were when Michelle Pfeiffer proved she really was an actress."

Other young stars making the list include Megan's *Transformers* co-star Shia LaBeouf, Michael Cera, Dakota Fanning, Emma Watson, Zac Efron, Miley Cyrus, Blake Lively and Keira Knightley.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Mills 'at peace' following bitter divorce



HEALTH Heather Mills is "at peace" following her bitter divorce battle from Sir Paul McCartney, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The charity campaigner is attempting to put her troubled year behind her and is concentrating on her charity work.

"I'm in a really good place at the moment," she says. "I'm really at peace. I've spent a lot of time healing. It's been a very, very difficult time, the hardest ever, but I now want the chance to focus on charity and continue my work with the causes I really care about."

Mills also revealed her and McCartney's four-year-old daughter Beatrice has helped her get through the difficult period.

"Beatrice is the light of my life, an absolute joy," she added to Britain's *Hello* magazine.

"I think when you have a child later in life, you appreciate it even more. I think on top of having lost so many — I had six miscarriages and two ectopic pregnancies — you really, really appreciate it."

"I was considering adoption, all sorts of things, nine years ago before I met her father."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Canadian Cancer Society
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Meyer directs music video

Twilight author Stephenie Meyer has directed her first music video for alt-rock band Jack's Mannequin's single The Resolution. It was shot in Malibu, Calif. **PEOPLE.COM**

entertainment **23**

Celebrity Buzz

Craig crashes celebration



CELEBRITY James Bond star Daniel Craig found himself the centre of attention at a recent New York baptism celebration, when he wandered into the party's venue after hearing the sound of bagpipes, imdb.com reports.

The actor, who is currently in the Big Apple

promoting the upcoming movie Quantum of Solace, stumbled upon the event when he entered Nichols restaurant in East Hampton on Saturday, according to the New York Post's gossip column PageSix.

"He walked in and ended up holding the baby and posing for photos," a source tells the publication.

"He loves the Hamptons and has been spending a lot of time out there."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Jessica Simpson to marry again?

GOSSIP Looks like singer Jessica Simpson and her football player boyfriend Tony Romo may be exchanging "I dos," TMZ.com reports.

The couple were spotted in a Neiman Marcus department store in Dallas, Tex., recently, reports the Chicago Sun-Times, and they were on the hunt for "big sparklers."

Simpson and Romo are reportedly already talking about a winter wedding, though "well after" the Super Bowl.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Cattrall lends voice to GPS

CELEBRITY Kim Cattrall is the new voice of TomTom navigation devices, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress will provide directions to owners of the GPS devices, it has been revealed.

As well as providing standard instructions, Cattrall will also say lines including, "This is the city, darling. Anything goes!" and "Don't touch my Manolos!"

A spokesperson for TomTom said, "The idea is to add some

spice to the ride, allowing drivers a fun and unforgettable journey."

Jocelyn Vi-greux, president of TomTom, added, "Celebrity voice down-loads are

one of the many features TomTom offers to our customers to personalize their driving experience. With Kim Cattrall's voice helping them to navigate their trip, TomTom customers will not only travel safely and with less stress but will also be amused along the way."

Cattrall's voice will not come as standard on the machines, and interested users will have to pay \$12.95 US to download the special feature.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Parker close to onscreen son

FAMILY Weeds star Mary-Louise Parker has heaped praise on her onscreen offspring Hunter Parrish, confessing she hopes her real-life son grows up like him, imdb.com reports.

Parker has a four-year-old son, William, with former partner Billy Crudup, and adopted her daughter Ash last year.

"Hunter is friendly and positive, Hunter wants harmony. I want my son to be

like Hunter. He's just good, and it's not fake or artificial," Parker tells USA Today newspaper.

Parker has also welcomed Parrish into her off-screen family, inviting him to spend annual holidays at her home.

"We text each other. He spent Thanksgiving at my house, he comes every year."

METRO

NEWS SERVICES



Dita blasts nip and no-tell celebrities

GOSSIP Dita Von Teese has blasted celebrities who don't admit to having plastic surgery, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The burlesque dancer, who previously admitted she had her breasts cosmetically enhanced when she was younger, says any famous person who has gone under the surgeon's knife should have the courage to be open about their decision.

"It's no secret that I had my breasts done," she says. "I will never apologize for having it done. I just wish more celebrities admitted to it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Clooney has no Batman regrets

FILM Actor George Clooney has no regrets over his appearance as comic book hero Batman, insisting the poorly received movie shot him to superstardom, imdb.com reports.

The former ER star landed the lead role in 1997's Batman and Robin and despite the movie's commercial success, it was universally panned by critics.

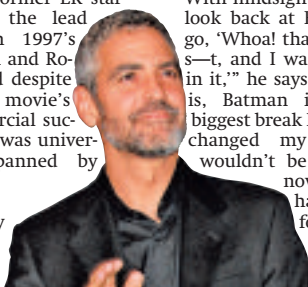
But Clooney insists that even

though he is embarrassed by his poor performance in the movie, he is adamant playing the caped crusader helped raise his profile in the acting world.

"I don't regret anything. With hindsight it's easy to look back at Batman and go, 'Whoa! that was really s---, and I was really bad in it,'" he says. "The truth is, Batman is still the biggest break I ever had. It changed my career. I wouldn't be doing this now if it hadn't been for Batman."

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Crowe bulks up for role

FILM Russell Crowe has revealed that he packed on 63 pounds for his role in Ridley Scott's new suspense thriller Body of Lies, People.com reports.

The actor says bulking up was a pleasure.

"I'll have that cheeseburger for breakfast, thank you!" he jokes of his attitude toward the weight gain.

Though Crowe has been known in the past for his affinity to his native Australian

VB beer, he says he avoided drinking as a way of gaining weight because of his boys, Charlie, 4, and Tenyson, 2. "The drinking thing has sort of taken a different place in my life since I had kids," Crowe

says. "There are a whole lot of things I don't do anymore because it affects my level of patience. I don't want to be in that place where I'm exasperated with these beautiful children."

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